

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper in Alexander Archipelago, Southeastern Alaska.—The Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, an Asiatic species known as a late summer and fall visitant to the northwestern coast of Alaska, has not been reported previously from Alexander Archipelago in southeastern Alaska. There are, however, records of occurrence at Valdez Narrows, Alaska (Grinnell, Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool., 5, 1910:375), along the coast-line in British Columbia (Munro and Cowan, B. C. Prov. Mus. Special Publ. No. 2, 1947:108), Nooksack River, Washington (Bent, U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. No. 142, 1927:169), and San Diego, California (Anthony, Auk, 39, 1922:106).

While I was hunting ducks on the marsh at Fish Creek, Douglas Island, Alaska, on October 26, 1949, I flushed a sandpiper from the tall grass. This bird uttered no sound as it flew. I collected the bird, which Herbert Friedmann diagnosed as an adult male Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Erolia acuminata*). Had this bird escaped, I would have recorded its presence as a Pectoral Sandpiper, but once in hand it was found to differ both in size and coloration from that species.

From previous records on the occurrence of the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper along the Pacific coast of North America, one would expect to encounter this species casually on the outer islands of Alexander Archipelago, although the specimen under discussion was collected on a salt-water marsh adjacent to the mainland.

I am indebted to Herbert Friedmann of the United States National Museum for his identification of the specimen which is now in the collections of that institution.—RALPH B. WILLIAMS, *Juneau, Alaska, January 25, 1950.*

Fulmar at Ross, California.—On the evening of February 5, 1949, one of us (Orr) was informed that a rather unusual bird had been picked up alive the previous afternoon on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, in front of the Ross Police Station in Marin County, California. The bird was obtained from the Chief of Police at Ross the following morning and proved to be a very weak and emaciated Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis rodgersii*) in dark plumage phase. According to the police all attempts to induce the bird to eat had been unsuccessful. On the morning of February 6 the Fulmar was found dead in the paper carton in which it had been confined. It was prepared as a study skin (♂ no. 61013) at the California Academy of Sciences and the carcass was saved for further study. No evidence of bodily injury was apparent, but numerous lice of two species were present on the feathers. These were kindly identified by Robert L. Edwards of Harvard University Biological Laboratories, Cambridge, Massachusetts, as *Perineus nigrolimbatus* (Neumann) and *Saemundssonina occidentalis* (Kellogg).

Although during this same month and the first half of March, 1949, large numbers of dead and dying Fulmars were noted along the coast of central California, usually after severe storms, the occurrence of this species at Ross which is 6 miles inland is unusual.—ROBERT T. ORR, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California*, and ALLEN E. BREED, *College of the Pacific, Stockton, California, February 15, 1950.*

Rock Dove Alighting on Stream.—At Woodlawn, Baltimore County, Maryland, a low dam backs up a small stream called Gwynns Falls to a width of 75 feet and a maximum depth of perhaps two feet. On this water a Rock Dove (*Columba livia*) alighted twice within a minute on the evening of October 2, 1949.

I first noticed the bird at 5:15 p.m. as it flew about over a 200-yard stretch of the stream and its banks, at heights of perhaps 30 feet down to 6 feet. Occasionally it flew still closer to the surface as though it would alight there, but it always rose again. I had stopped watching it when, a few minutes later, I heard splashes and looked in time to see the bird rising above the roiled water and flying away. At a distance of possibly 50 yards, with 12×38 monocular, I could see nothing in its bill.

I now kept my glass on the bird continuously. For perhaps half a minute it flew about as before. Then, near the middle of the stream, it settled tail-first on the water, coming to rest with wings spread on the surface, about two-thirds opened. For a second or longer it floated in this position and during this time dipped its bill, and apparently part of its head, into the water. Then it rose with splashing beats of the wings but with no sign of unusual effort and, affording no view of its bill, flew out of sight into a tree on the far shore.